Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

Classroom: Regan 107

Meeting Pattern: MWF 10:10-11:00

Instructor Contact Information: provide same information for co-teachers or TAs
Robin Darling Young
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202-319-6896
youngr@cua.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment

TA:
Mr. Matthew Franks
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Course Description:

This course is the first in a sequence of four courses that deal with the overall theme of “Tradition and Renewal in Contemporary Catholicism.” These courses draw their inspiration from the four constitutions of the Second Vatican Council: The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum); The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium); The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium); and The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes). HSTR 101 draws its particular inspiration from the first of these constitutions, Dei Verbum. This course begins with an overview of the Council’s Constitution on Divine Revelation and gives special consideration to the nature and meaning of Revelation, Inspiration, Scripture, and Tradition.

The course provides a glimpse into the science of the study of God through the exploration of the thought of selected theologians and scripture. Students will learn how to read and interpret various genres of theological texts from different historical eras, including the Old Testament, the New Testament, the early Church, the Middle Ages, the Reformation era, the period of the Second Vatican Council, and the present time. By engaging these texts through discussion, research, and writing, students will gain an introductory grasp of the academic discipline of theology.

This course is one part of a larger First-Year Experience. The Classical Mind and The Modern Mind, Writing: Logic and Rhetoric, and Faith Seeking Understanding all require you to think about how we know ourselves, the world, and God, and how we act in light of that knowledge. We think and act better in the company of friends, Aristotle said, and so we will grapple with these questions together as a learning community. Together, we will read, discuss, and write about fundamental questions and ideas in the well-founded hope that the search for truth will make us better, more complete human beings. What
we're doing is risky because answers to these questions have real implications for how we will live our lives.

An additional specification:

Through reading, critically analyzing and discussing primary texts contextualized by supplementary readings and lectures, this class will understand how the successive communities that formed the canon of scriptures approached and understood them. We will consider the formation of theology as a scholarly discipline and as a discourse having broad consistency across two thousand years of Christian history, and a form of expression permitting development and difference among language groups and periods of time. We will take note of particular areas within that consistent discourse – e.g. covenant, redemption, or eschatology – as we explore together the primary texts of scripture and theology that, together, form the broad Christian tradition, giving special attention to particularly Catholic insights and teaching.

**Instructional Methods:**

Lecture and discussion

**Required Text:**

Bible, preferably Catholic Study Bible
*Dei Verbum*
Other texts as posted on Blackboard

**Recommended Text:**

**Course Goals:**

Survey the Bible and its interpretation in the Christian tradition.

**Goals for Student Learning:**

At the conclusion of the course the student will be able to:
-- demonstrate an understanding of the formation of the canon of scripture and the interpretation of the Bible, develop a basic understanding of its contents and of the elaboration of Christian belief as theology, with the interpretation of the Bible, over the course of the history of Christianity.
-- develop skills in reading and discussion of primary texts, and in particular to learn to discuss these texts carefully with others in the class.
-- write clearly and analytically for assigned papers.

**Course Requirements:**

Three five-page essays (due dates below): 50% of total grade.
Two exams (non-cumulative): 40% of total grade.
Regular reading, attendance and participation in class, 10% of total grade.
Expectations and Policies:

Academic Honesty:
Academic honesty is expected of all CUA students. Faculty members are required to initiate the imposition of sanctions when they find violations of academic honesty, such as plagiarism, improper use of a student’s own work, cheating, and fabrication.

The following sanctions are presented in the University procedures related to Student Academic Dishonesty:

“The presumed sanction for undergraduate students for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course. There may be circumstances, however, where, perhaps because of an undergraduate student’s past record, a more serious sanction, such as suspension or expulsion, would be appropriate. In the context of graduate studies, the expectations for academic honesty are greater, and therefore the presumed sanction for dishonesty is likely to be more severe, e.g., expulsion. ...In the more unusual case, mitigating circumstances may exist that would warrant a lesser sanction than the presumed sanction.”

Please review the complete texts of the University policy and procedures regarding Student Academic Dishonesty, including requirements for appeals, at: (http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm).

Other Policies or Expectations:
Note your policies and/or expectations (e.g. attendance and punctuality policy, participation expectation, note re: cell phones, timeliness on papers, form of submission of papers – electronic vs. hard copy – policy on making up (or not) quizzes, tests etc.).

Campus Resources for Student Support:

Libraries: The CUA Libraries' wide range of resources and services, including databases, online journals, and FAQs are on the main web site (libraries.cua.edu). For assistance on papers and assignments, consult the research guides (guides.lib.cua.edu) or schedule an appointment with a subject librarian (libraries.cua.edu/about/subjlibs.cfm).

Tutoring Center: CUA offers free tutoring to all students. For information on tutoring visit the Center for Academic Success website (success.cua.edu/tutoring/).

Writing Center: CUA offers free writing services to all students. For information, contact the Writing Center (english.cua.edu/wc/).

Counseling Center: CUA offers free counseling services to all students. For information on the many services the counseling center offers, visit the Counseling Center’s website (counseling.cua.edu/) or call at 202-319-5765.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact Disability Support Services (at 202 319-5211, room 207 Pryzbyla Center) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. To read about the services and policies, please visit the website (disabilitysupport.cua.edu).

Assessment:
Three five-page essays (due dates below): 50% of total grade.
Two exams (non-cumulative): 40% of total grade.
Regular reading, attendance and participation in class, 10% of total grade.

**University grades:**
The University grading system is available at:
- Undergraduates: policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad//gradesfull.cfm#II
- Graduates: policies.cua.edu/academicgrad//gradesfull.cfm#iii

Grades for courses are posted at the end of each semester at: http://cardinalstation.cua.edu

**Course Schedule:**

8/28-30  Genesis 1:1-11:26, Creation and Primeval History
         Ways of understanding scripture, ancient and modern

9/02    Labor Day Holiday

9/04    Genesis
         Dinner with Profs. Therese-Anne Druart and Robin Darling Young
         3851 Porter St., N.W. D 280

9/06    Genesis

9/09    Exodus

9/11    Exodus

9/13    I Samuel 1-12

9/16    I Samuel/Prophecy 13-31; 2 Sam 1-7

9/18    Isaiah 40-55

9/20    Daniel 1-3, 7, 12

9/23    Proverbs 8-9


9/27    Matthew 10-18

9/30    Matthew 18-28

10/02   Midterm


10/07   Paul’s Letter to the Romans 1-7

10/09   Romans 9-16; Letter to the Hebrews 1:1-3:6; 11-12:13
10/11  Book of Revelation 1; 4-5; 12; 19-22

10/14  Columbus Day Holiday

10/15  Administrative Monday: Ephrem the Syrian *Hymns on Paradise* 1, 2, 6
(scanned; on blackboard)

10/16  Athanasius, *On the Incarnation* (spurgeon.org/phil/history/ath-inc.)

First paper due

10/18  Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*

10/21  Athanasius, *On the Incarnation* (conclude)

(on blackboard)

10/25  Benedict, Rule, chapters 1-7; 13; 17-73

10/28  John of Damascus, *Defense of Icons*
fordham.edu/halsall/basis/johnofdamascus-images.asp

10/30  Bernard of Clairvaux, *Three Sermons on the Song of Songs*
(on blackboard)

11/01  Hildegard of Bingen
(on blackboard)

11/04  Thomas Aquinas, selections from the *Summa Theologica*
(http://www.ccel.org/ccel/aquinas/summa.html)

11/06  Thomas Aquinas, ST

11/08  Thomas Aquinas, ST

Saturday 11/9 **DC Excursion**, National Gallery, “Heaven and Earth”
http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/press/exh/3514.html

11/11  Luther, *Freedom of a Christian*
(lutheransonline.com/lo/894/FSDL-1328308894-111894)

11/13  Calvin, selections from the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*
(http://www.ccel.org/ccel/calvin/institutes/)

Second paper due

11/15  Calvin, *Institutes*

11/18  Council of Trent, decrees (http://history.hanover.edu/texts/trent.html)
(selections)

11/20  Herbert McCabe, *Faith Within Reason*, chapters 11, 13

11/22  McCabe, chapters 4, 5, 10

11/24  McCabe, chapters 7, 8

11/27  Thanksgiving Holiday

12/02  *Dei Verbum*

12/04  *Dei Verbum*

12/06  Review

**Third paper due**

Note: The final exam must be given on the day and time assigned by the Registrar. Final examinations, if required, must be administered in the final examination period. Please plan accordingly for travel, work or appointments.